

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0233

USIAC

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CI, US

SUBJECT: GOC BAN ON NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT

FOR: PAO WOODWARD

1. (BEGIN LOU) ADVISE KANDELL THAT MFA PRESS CHIEF CARLOS ASHTON
"DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE" SECURE LIFTING BAN HIS ENTRY TO
CHILE AND HOPEFUL SUCCESS IN FEW DAYS "BUT NOT YET." (END LOU)

2. FYI ONLY (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL). ASHTON SAID DURING HIS
VISIT TO NEW YORK IN DEC HE CALLED ON NYT GREENFIELD WHO
RAISED QUESTION KANDELL BAN. ASHTON, WHO AGREED BAN WAS
UNFORTUNATE, PROMISED DO BEST AND ON RETURN SANTIAGO GOT
MIN FON AFFS ADM. CARVAJAL RAISE MATTER WITH PINOCHET.
ASHTON ALSO USED HIS ONETIME RADIO AGRICULTURA COLLEAGUE AND
PRESENT JUNTA POLITICAL ADVISOR ALVARO PUGA, "WHO IS VERY
CLOSE TO PRESIDENT," AS ANOTHER CHANNEL TO PINOCHET. PUGA
CALLED BACK "JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS SAY COAST WAS CLEAR AND
KANDELL COULD ENTER ANYTIME HE WANTED," ITEM WHICH HE NOTED
ON XMAS CARD TO GREENFIELD. ASHTON WAS SURPRISED AFTER
HOLIDAY WHEN INFORMED THRU USIS THAT KANDELL HAD BEEN TOLD
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BY IMMIGRATION AT SANTIAGO'S PUDAHUEL AIRPORT DURING A TRANSIT

STOP THAT PROHIBITION HAD NOT BEEN LIFTED. ASHTON RETURNED TO CARVAJAL WHO SAID HE WAS "SICK AND TIRED OF PROBLEM" BUT WHO ALTHOUGH HE REFUSED TO TELEPHONE INTERIOR MIN. GENERAL CESAR BENAVIDES DID AGREE TO SIGN A LETTER TO HIM DRAFTED BY ASHTON URGING RECONSIDERATION BAN ON KANDELL. ASHTON CHARACTERIZED BENAVIDES AS THE "BAD MAN IN THIS SITUATION". WHEN ASKED HOW THIS SQUARED WITH PINOCHET'S MORE FAVORABLE VIEWPOINT ASHTON REPLIED "THIS ISN'T FIRST TIME THINGS HAVE HAPPENED THIS WAY" AND MADE IT CLEAR BENAVIDES HAS FINAL SAY. ASHTON HAS DISCUSSED MATTER AGAIN WITH PUGA AND WITH BENAVIDES' DEPUTIES, BOTH OF WHOM SAID TO FAVOR LIFTING BAN.

3. COMMENT. ASHTON'S PROMISES ARE OFTEN BETTER THAN DELIVERY BUT THIS TIME HE REALLY SEEMS TO BE VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN GETTING FAVORABLE DECISION. HOWEVER, IT IS EVIDENT STRONGLY HELD FEELINGS SOME POWERFUL MEMBERS OF INNER CHILEAN ESTABLISHMENT ARE INVOLVED.
HALSEMA

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